

4.067 Advancing island conservation and sustainable livelihoods

NOTING that islands and their surrounding waters cover one-sixth of the world's surface, represent one quarter of the nations of the world, 16 percent of the planet's known plant species, and more than half of the world's tropical marine biodiversity;

FURTHER NOTING that islands and their coastal areas are a critical source of food, jobs and income for millions of people (more than 500 million people live on more than 100,000 islands around the globe), and yet that islands around the world have suffered from human activity and are particularly vulnerable to climate change;

EMPHASIZING IUCN's expertise in key areas for island conservation and development, such as adapting to climate change, combating the threats posed by alien invasive species, the conservation of native species, as well as the management of protected areas and the broader marine environment;

CONSIDERING the recent strengthening of IUCN's island activities, with the opening of the Regional Office for Oceania, launching of the Caribbean initiative, setting up the programme on European Union Overseas Entities, and the continuing activities of the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation;

ALSO CONSIDERING the potential and capacity of IUCN to integrate States, public entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and expert action as an asset to the implementation of regional and global strategies for the diverse status and political situations of islands;

AWARE that the mission of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is to promote actions for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments, and facilitating collaboration among islands;

ALSO AWARE that GLISPA is recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a platform to actively support implementation of the 2010 target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss and the CBD *Programmes of Work on Island Biodiversity* and *Protected Areas* and related policies;

RECOGNIZING that Parties to the CBD and various organizations have made use of GLISPA to advance collaboration, planning and implementation of activities to achieve the CBD 2010 target through voluntary commitments, such as the Micronesia Challenge, Caribbean Challenge, Coral Triangle Initiative, Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Fiji's commitment to include 30% of its inshore and offshore marine areas under protected areas management, and others;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the 9th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CBD (Bonn, 2008) recognized GLISPA and the above-mentioned initiatives and achievements in Decision IX.21 on Island biodiversity and that these same initiatives have garnered strong support from other international institutions and NGOs including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Pacific Island Leaders Forum, Germany's LifeWeb Initiative, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), WWF, Asian Development Bank (ADB), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and others;

WELCOMING the leadership and support of Palau, the Seychelles, the Bahamas, Grenada, Kiribati, Indonesia, Italy, France, the CBD Secretariat, Conservation International, IUCN, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), TNC, United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC), WWF, and other international institutions and NGOs in the establishment and progress of GLISPA;

ALSO WELCOMING and APPROVING the steps taken by IUCN to set up an integrated Island Initiative aimed at effective involvement by concerned members, Commissions, component programmes and geographic programmes;

BUILDING ON the success of the conference 'The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to counter climate change and biodiversity loss' co-organized by IUCN and held on Reunion Island in July 2008, under the French EU Presidency, and supported by GLISPA and others; and

CONFIRMING the need for a GLISPA Coordination Team to mobilize and support the GLISPA Partners in their commitments to action, expand GLISPA and ensure continuity of critical coordination and communication functions;

The World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the IUCN Programme 2009-2012:

1. WELCOMES the leadership provided by the Director General in:
 - (a) supporting the creation of an efficient Coordination Team for GLISPA; and
 - (b) hosting GLISPA within IUCN to ensure its continued success as an important platform for island action, leadership and collaboration and its continued role in support of the CBD *Programmes of Work on Island Biodiversity and Protected Areas* and related policies; and
2. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) define further the objectives and expected outcomes of the IUCN Island Initiative and carry out its implementation;
 - (b) identify concrete examples and pilot projects that will serve as models promoting participative and local community management on islands;
 - (c) examine how the current efforts of IUCN on islands could be better integrated, as appropriate, at the regional level in the Western Indian Ocean; and
 - (d) establish a platform for exchange between concerned members and experts on issues relevant to IUCN's work on islands, under the Island Initiative.